

March 5, 1963

Dr. James F. Crow
Department of Medical Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Jim:

How much of the Index of possible selection due to fertility variance in the United States can be attributed to the differential fertility by color? You have remarked on the increase in this index over the past few decades and it seems to me this is a reflection of the demographic transition with different cultural groups are experiencing at different rates.

Whelpton, Cohort Fertility, Princeton, 1954, has collected and computed a very substantial body of data on the fertility of a fairly long interval of cohorts that should be of particular interest to you for this type of analysis.

I was also very much struck by the figure on page 319 of Bogue, The Population of the United States, on the variation of fertility of white women by state. It seems to me it would be very worth while to indicate the geographic component of the Index of selection, while carefully recognizing that this by no means precludes a very large element of genotypic variation.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

CRW